

## BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

January 13, 2021

TOWN BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m. Present by remote roll call were John G. Schuler M. D. (JS), Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS), Brian McNamara (BM), Robert DeFrancesco DMD (RD), Chair, Susan Green (SG), Julia Junghanns, (JJ) Director of Public Health, Ruth Mori MSN, RN (RM) Public Health Nurse/School Nurse Leader, Ellen Mahoney M.D. (EM), School Physician, Olivia Dufour (OD), Tobacco Control Manager for the MetroWest tobacco grant.

RD: Roll call to open meeting: JS – yes, AS – yes, BM- yes, SG – yes and RD-yes

### **5:12 p.m. Covid-19: report, updates and new information, information on vaccination plans**

Board of Public Works met last night to discuss whether playgrounds should remain open given that Wayland is designated as a red community. Original concern was that Wayland's playgrounds would be visited by residents from red communities but that was not the focus of the discussion at Board of PW meeting. AS wanted to make sure there would be signage for COVID transmission prevention (there is) and that people can contact Health Department if they have any concerns about other playground users' compliance with COVID prevention rules.

RM did her report on COVID case numbers, as of 1/1-1/7/21, total cases are 383, 49 new cases, 45 cases removed, and there are 71 current active cases. Three people are hospitalized. At the first assisted living facility, one person, a resident, tested positive but is not in MAVEN yet. At a second assisted living, there was one person who tested positive. At the third facility, there were no need new cases. No cases at the nursing home.

Eleven households comprise 49 cases including 5 households have 2 positive cases, 3 households have 3 positive cases and 3 households have 4 positive cases. There are 9 total probable cases, which are positive antigen tests.

RM does not believe there has been in-school transmission because people can identify other ways of contracting COVID than from in school. New in school cases: 1 student from Loker, 2 students at WMS and 1 staff member, 3 students at WHS and 2 staff. One HS student had 2 close contacts but otherwise there were no close contacts.

AS asked about staff at assisted living facilities who refuse the vaccine and what the policies will be about continuing to work. RM thought that the State regulations would cover these situations. Ellen Mahoney said she is not allowed to require her staff to get the COVID vaccine.

Assisted living facilities are having CVS deliver and administer the vaccines. There is 3 week to month between the first and second clinics at the assisted living facilities to administer the second dose.

RM doing two clinics for first responders, one clinic yesterday, the other tomorrow. People got vaccines after their shifts so they wouldn't have to be compromised during their workday. Ruth is setting up the second dose administration now.

AS asked what is the population of people in Wayland over 65 or 75 so that we have enough vaccine available? JJ said she is obtaining this information from the town clerk. AS: How quickly could Wayland put on a clinic to give COVID vaccine? Town signed an agreement to comply with conditions if Wayland is approved to be a vaccine provider for citizens. Health dept. is completing paperwork to do clinics. There would likely be full-day clinics once a week if we receive the vaccine. There is a Wayland Senior Staff Working Group for vaccine planning logistics. Have 35 Medical Relief Corps. Volunteers. In addition to the MRC, Louise Miller, town administrator, has asked paramedics to be trained so they can administer the vaccine.

Large scale state vaccination sites will be set up, with the closest one likely at the Natick Mall. MA roll-out plan echoes the CDC phased roll-out. Will be using PREP-MOD for registration and administration tasks which is a required State software. This is new software so staff are being trained on it as well as being trained on vaccine handling. There is no vaccine available beyond the vaccine for first responders.

JS: Will CVS be doing inoculations for citizens? JJ: There is a 15-30 minute wait after vaccination so not sure how this waiting would work at a CVS.

RM and JJ said they are getting a lot of phone calls from people who want vaccine and others are calling who are in Phase I and have been advised by the state to call the town for vaccine, but the State didn't supply enough vaccine to inoculate all who are calling. RM is very frustrated that the town has been put in that position.

AS asked why Wayland's COVID case numbers are higher than surrounding communities. JJ said she didn't know. RM said it is possible that with COVID numbers will be decreasing next week.

We are waiting for more information on the State School testing program.

6:07 p.m. Tobacco Control – Introduction to Olivia Dufour, Tobacco Control Manager for the MetroWest tobacco grant (based out of Framingham), presentation of plans for compliance checks/inspections; vote to appoint Olivia to act as agent for purposes of Tobacco compliance checks in Wayland

OD has been working on the program in September 2020. Have emergency funding to deal with vaping concerns. The funding is to do education and inspections of various bans of flavored products and vaping products. The state law has violations and fines defined in the law for first, second and third offenses that are much higher than before. First violations do not carry fines. Compliance checks are not mandated by the state law due to COVID. BM asked if retailers have been notified that they will be inspected. OD said they were notified in the fall. She has done 50 inspections and has seen a good level of compliance. Wayland did outreach to retailers about the steeper fines.

**JS made a motion to appoint Olivia Dufour to be the agent to conduct tobacco inspections on behalf of the Wayland Board of Health. SG seconded. JS – yes, AS – yes, BM- yes, SG – yes and RD-yes**

**6:25 p.m. General business**

No minutes to approve. Will look at them next time.

**6:25 p.m. Public comment**

Nimmi Tapasso , Wayland resident and physician at Newton Wellesley Hospital was disappointed that some of the variables that she thought would be discussed at the meeting on January 2nd weren't. She has pulled her children from school. Wants to look at primary and secondary indicators from CDC guidelines. There is little evidence of transmission to date but it is because the COVID levels were lower but now there are primary indicators that are of concern such as 1) cases in last 14 days which puts us at higher risk of transmission in school, and 2) percent positivity in Wayland which is a moderate risk of transmission in school. She thinks these were omissions and we should be pro-active not reactive. She suggested the Board consider: Should we eliminate lunch? Take into consideration the new variant too.

Next meeting date: January 25, 2021 5 p.m.

**6:37 JS: Motion to adjourn the meeting, second BM. roll call AS=yes JS yes BM yes RD yes SG yes.**

**Adjourned 6:37 p.m.**

Submitted by Board of Health member Susan Green.

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